

THE DAILY ARGUS

JOHN W. POTTER.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1893.

The Journalistic Santa Claus.

Editor George W. Childs, of the Philadelphia *Ledger*, justly enjoys the proud distinction of the Santa Claus of the newspaper world. Christmas day, Mr. Childs, it is said, distributed among the editors, reporters, correspondents, compositors, clerks, pressmen and other employees of the *Ledger* nearly \$40,000.

On With the Dance.

A number of holy people are shocked at the knowledge that there is to be a great ball in Washington on the occasion of the inauguration of the president. The *Burlington Genius* thinks the world ought to feel sorry for all such poor old namby-pamby, insincere fools. We have no patience whatever with the long visaged and sour-souled dyspeptics who are so anxious to strangle all joy out of the world. Dancing makes bright faces and happy hearts, and any old dot who don't want to find himself in such a condition, for mercy sake let him stay away. But it wouldn't be like him if he didn't want to stick his nose into every other man's business, and he will never be satisfied until he sees others as miserable, cross-grained and sour as himself. We are glad they are going to have a ball in Washington. It will help to make the occasion a happy and joyful one.

Why not wish that every man, woman and child in the land had all they wanted to eat and drink and every thing that would contribute to their cheer and happiness? In spite of all, the world has enough gloom and sadness and woe. Let hearts be light and joyful while they can, and let innocent mirth be unrestrained, for in this way life is brighter and sweeter. It is not the rule that evil comes out of such pleasures; it is the rare exception. It occasionally happens that a passenger gets killed on a train, but we will not abolish railroads yet, for all that. So no man should condemn the innocent pleasures that add to the joy of the world.

It is also useless for a man to object to these things, for the whole tendency of civilization is against them. They are woefully mistaken when they think they are going forward when they condemn this or that amusement or diversion, or when they succeed in prohibiting by law something they conceive to be a vice. Bless their innocent, unred soul, they are simply trying to push the world back upon ground it occupied centuries ago, and which it has abandoned in the progress of ages.

The tendency of civilization for centuries has been to extend individual freedom, not to restrict it. A man would be very foolish to beat the water of the Mississippi river with his little paddle and declare he never would stop until the water ran the other way. Yet he is working in just as hopeless a project when he gets in the current of civilization and declares he will turn it back toward the restriction of individual freedom. Every man has the right to pursue happiness, always respecting the same right in others. When that pursuit can only be within certain lines marked out by some one whose ideas of happiness are very narrow, the right is abridged, and a growing civilization will not long tolerate such interference.

Many of the blue laws of Connecticut were never repealed, but they fell into disregard and finally ridicule, and now are only curious old records. Any attempt now to restrict individual freedom is simply an effort to push us all back into the civilization of the times when those laws flourished.

The disposition of the carpenter objects to the personal habits and amusements of the people is opposed to individual responsibility and personal freedom. The man who does not want to dance need not dance, but he has no right to restrain the man who does want to dance. The man who does not care to drink wine may refuse it, but he has no right to do it to the man who does want it. The man who best enjoys himself by keeping his coffin and shroud close by him all the time has a perfect right to that sort of enjoyment, but he has no right to quarrel with those who see fit to look on the brighter side of life and spend their time in social gaiety.

A bright, happy and joyous life, filled with the pure delights of this world, is by no means a menace to the principles of morality and probity.

They Are AT IT AGAIN.

A Few of the Totals

From the National Treasury Balance Sheets.

PROTEST AGAINST SILVER COINAGE

Admiral Luce's Operations at Port-au-Prince—Proceedings in the Reorganized Congress—Something About Our Arid Acres—Call Indians Want a More "Spirited Foreign Policy" in Samoa—A Pilgrim to Indians—Ford's Report on Official Items.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 3.—The reduction in the public debt during December past amounted to \$4,327,500, and for the first eleven months of the year the total reduction in the public debt was \$30,500,000. The total debt now stands at \$20,000,000, showing a reduction during the calendar year just closed of \$9,306,144. During the previous calendar year the debt was reduced \$116,300,000. The total debt now stands at \$20,000,000, showing that her best efforts during the past year, and aggregate \$94,000,000. This includes the \$64,000,000 Pacific railroad bonds; \$31,142,300 4% per cent., \$651,37, 6 6 4 per cents., and \$4,000,000 navy pension fund 5 per cents.

The outlay in the treasury for the month of January was \$1,000,000, against \$12,600 a month ago, and is about \$10,000 less than on Jan. 1, 1888. National bank deposits now hold \$35,300,193 of government funds, or about \$500,00 more than a month ago. The gold fund balances in the treasury has increased about \$4,000,000 during the past year, and amounts to \$97,885,400, and the silver fund balance, or 6,000,000 trade dollar balances, is \$126,211, or \$6,000,000 less than a month ago.

Government receipts during December aggregated \$30,463,302, against \$20,006,983 in December, 1887. Customs receipts in December, 1888, were \$16,930,000, and \$16,900,000 more than in December, 1887, and internal revenue receipts during the past month were \$10,475,000, or about \$2,000 less than in December, 1887.

Receipts from all sources from July 1 to Dec. 31—the first half of the current fiscal year—aggregated \$190,679,682, or about \$20,000,000 less than for the corresponding six months in 1887. On the other hand expenditures during the first half of current year aggregated \$162,302,416, or about \$10,000,000 more than expenditures during the corresponding months in 1887. Of this increase in expenditures compared with the first half of the preceding fiscal year, \$3,500,000 is due to increase in the amount of interest on the public debt, and \$2,000,000 increase in ordinary expenses, and the interest charge on the public debt for the six months past was about \$1,000,000 less than for the corresponding months of 1887.

Sherman offered and had read to the senate yesterday afternoon the following memorial to the national board of trade, dated Dec. 20, 1888, addressed to the Senate and House of Representatives:

Whereas, the present outlay of silver dollars in connection with other forms of currency is excessive, and all the requirements of the domestic trade and commerce of the United States are met.

Whereas, the profits which result from that outlay and which are counted as part of the total income of the government are not a legitimate source of revenue under the constitution of the United States; and,

Whereas when the condition of foreign exchanges may require the export of specie to meet the demands of the country, the loss to the country is hereby memorialized to provide by law for the suspension of the purchase of silver bullion and the coining of silver coins.

A Grievance of United States Marshals.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 3.—The speaker laid aside before the house a letter from the attorney general transmitting a letter from E. M. Boykin, marshal for South Carolina.

He asks that the law in regard to payment of marshals be changed so that marshals from time to time receive an advance money to defray, instead of defraying, the cost of living awaiting an adjustment of their accounts before receiving their pay. Months back, he says, frequently elapses after deputes have made cases and advanced money out of their own pockets to pay expenses before they are reimbursed.

Unless this delay in the adjustment of accounts of marshals is remedied, Marshal Boykin says, South Carolina, at least, the execution of the revenue laws will be suspended.

THE HAYTIAN REPUBLIC AFFAIR.

Admiral Luce's Report—Hayti Tasks Going to Court.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 3.—The state department has made public the correspondence regarding the surrender of the Haytian Republic, together with the official report of Secretary Whitney. The latter is dated Dec. 20, and recites the fact of the surrender of the Haytian Republic, which only confirms accounts heretofore published.

ADMIRAL LUCE'S REPORT—*"A singular chapter,"* has just been added to the history of the Haytian Republic case. It seems from what I can not but consider as good authority that only the day before our arrival the Haytian government was about to deliver up to an English crew and send them to New York. The news of the capture of the steamer to New York to be delivered up to our government has not yet been made quite clear.

Admiral Luce adds a postscript as follows: "I beg to call attention to the clause noted in the letter marked 'B'." From it appears that the Haytian government is to be taken up the rear, that at the same time the government may take some action in what concerns the judicial actions to which it may have recourse before the American court."

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The National Lawmakers Resume Business at the Old Stand.

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